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Better Law Enforcement Begins At Top, Club Told

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Improvement in law enforcement must come from the top down, first the public, then the administrators who oversee the police force, then the police leaders, and then in the ranks of the police, the Sherman Rotary Club was told Tuesday by Col. Joe S. Webb, who teaches courses in law enforcement at Grayson Junior College.

Col. Webb has an extensive law enforcement background of 24 years, during which time he served as head of all Air Force police, as a member of the CIA and other jobs. He has recently joined the Grayson College staff.

Through the college courses, Webb hopes to help policemen in this area know better how to perform their jobs. He said he was receiving fine cooperation from the Sherman and Denison police departments with several policemen enrolled.

More Crime

Among the many changes which have taken place in life today, the speaker said, it is necessary to list the fact that more crimes are being committed each year.

"Along with the increase in population, the civil rights movements, the attitude of youth toward law enforcement, we must say that crime has become harder to detect and in many cases convictions are hard to come by," he said. "The courts often give the individual more power against the law enforcement officer."

"Along with the increase in crime has come an increase in public apathy about law enforcement. This might be laid to many things, including cowardice to become involved, a weakening of moral fibers, or it could be that the law does not give the individual wanting to help in putting down crime enough protection," he said.

To Whom Applied?

Unfortunately, many law enforcement officers have had to determine just to whom the

law applies, the speaker said. He told of instances where charges were not filed because of the friendship of the lawbreaker to those powerful in authority. Often the arresting officer is pressured not to bring a charge. The cases he cited were not local, he said.

"Your policemen have a wide variety of duties you, as a citizen, may not know about," he said. "He needs to be good at first aid, a fair mechanic, know how to handle most any situation."

"It has been said that a good policeman needs the wisdom of a Solomon and the patience of a Job," he declared.

Hard to Find Men

He noted that it is difficult to find enough good men to fill the gaps in police officers' ranks. This is because of pay, but also it is because of the way people look at their work, the disinterest of the public.

He said that one million people were engaged in law enforcement in the nation, and that the cost is borne by all citizens. This means that better training is necessary, and that the result of this will mean more pay.

The speaker was introduced by Foy Wallace. Chancy Corse was awarded a pin by President E. M. St. John for eight years of perfect attendance.